

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute claims 1-24 with the following:

1. (Previously Presented) A person authentication system for executing personal authentication by comparing templates with sampling information input by a user, the templates being personal identification data acquired beforehand, the person authentication system comprising:

    a personal identification certificate authority which generates and issues a person identification certificate having data items in accordance with a predetermined format and storing template information including the templates; and

    an entity which acquires the person identification certificate and which executes a person authentication process on the basis of the templates of the acquired person identification certificate

    wherein the template information is encrypted using a public key of said personal identification certificate authority and stored in the person identification certificate to be generated by said personal identification certificate authority.

2. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the person identification certificate issued by said personal identification certificate authority includes a digital signature added by said personal identification certificate authority.

3. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the person identification certificate issued by said person identification certificate authority includes, as indispensable data, an identifier capable of identifying the person identification certificate and identification data of the person to be authenticated on the basis of the person identification certificate.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the template information is encrypted using a public key of said entity and stored in the person identification certificate to be generated by said personal identification certificate authority.

6. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the template information is encrypted using a common key and stored in the person identification certificate to be generated by said identification certificate authority, the common key being encrypted using a public key of said entity and stored in the person identification certificate.

7. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the template information is encrypted and stored, along with corresponding encryption algorithm information, in the person identification certificate to be generated by said personal identification certificate authority.

8. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the person identification certificate generated by said personal identification certificate authority stores personal information data of the person to be authenticated.

9. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the person identification certificate generated by said identification certificate authority stores, as a public key certificate information of the person to be authenticated, identification data of a public key certificate of the person to be authenticated.

10. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the person identification certificate generated by said personal identification certificate authority stores link information linked to a public key certificate used in data communication or data processing which is executed on a condition that the personal authentication is successfully executed on the basis of the person identification certificate.

11. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the templates stored in the person identification certificate include at least one of fingerprint information, retina pattern information, iris pattern information, voice print information, and handwriting information which are biometric information, and a seal, a passport, a driver's license, and a card which are non-biometric information, or include a combination of at least one of the information and a password.

12. (Original) A person authentication system according to claim 1, wherein said entity is a service provider that makes a deal with a user who has been identified on the basis of the person identification certificate, a user device accessed by a user who has been identified on the basis of the person identification certificate, or said person identification certificate authority.

13. (Previously Presented) A person authentication method for executing personal authentication by comparing templates with sampling information input by a user, the templates being personal identification data acquired beforehand, the person identification method comprising the steps of:

generating and issuing, at a personal identification certificate authority, a person identification certificate that has data items in accordance with a predetermined format and that stores template information including the templates;

acquiring, at an entity, the person identification certificate and executing a person authentication process on the basis of the templates of the acquired person identification certificate; and

encrypting the template information using a public key of said personal identification certificate authority and storing the template information in the person identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority.

14. (Previously Presented) A person authentication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of adding a digital signature of said personal identification certificate

authority to the person identification certificate to be issued at said personal identification certificate authority.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Original) A person authentication method according to claim 13, wherein the template information is encrypted using a public key of said entity and stored in the person identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority.

17. (Original) A person authentication method according to claim 13, wherein the template information is encrypted using a common key and stored in the person identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority, the common key being encrypted using a public key of said entity and stored in the person identification certificate.

18. (Original) A person authentication method according to claim 13, wherein the template information is encrypted and stored, along with corresponding encryption algorithm information, in the person identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority.

19. (Previously Presented) A person authentication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of storing a personal information data of the person to be authenticated in the certificate identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority.

20. (Previously Presented) A person authentication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of storing identification data of a public key certificate of the person to be authenticated, as a public key certificate information of the person to be authenticated, in

the person identification certificate to be generated at said personal identification certificate authority.

21. (Previously Presented) A person authentication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of storing link information linked to a public key certificate used in data communication or data processing in a person identification certificate to be generated at said identification certificate authority, the data communication or data processing being executed on a condition that the personal authentication is successfully executed on the basis of the person identification certificate.

22. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus which executes personal authentication by comparing templates with sampling information input by a user, the templates being personal identification data acquired beforehand, the information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a person identification certificate which has data items in accordance with a predetermined format and which stores template information including the templates; and

processing means for verifying the person identification certificate, acquiring the templates from the person identification certificate, encrypting the template information using a public key of said identification certificate authority, and executing a person authentication process on the basis of the acquired templates.

23. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising encryption processing means for decrypting encrypted templates stored in the person identification certificate.

24. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable program storage medium to perform a method for executing personal authentication by comparing templates with sampling

information input by a user, the sampling information being personal identification data acquired beforehand, the method comprising the steps of:

generating and issuing, at a personal identification certificate authority, a person identification certificate that has data items in accordance with a predetermined format and that stores template information including the templates;

encrypting the template information using a public key of said identification certificate authority, and

acquiring, at an entity, the person identification certificate and executing a person authentication process on the basis of the templates of the acquired person identification certificate.